(a) whether it is a fact that all the State Governments and the Union Territories have been advised to set up Pollution Control Boards to check the menace of pollution; and

(b) if so, how many States have set up such Boards and what are the reasons for not setting up such Boards by the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States are to set up the Boards after adopting the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, in their State Assemblies. Eighteen States have set up Pollution Control Boards after adopting the Act. Tripura has adopted the Act, but has not so far set up a Board. The States of Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim have not yet adopted in the Act, and hence no Pollution Control Boards have been set up in these States. The Act has not also been adopted yet in the three new States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Goa.

Strike in ITDC hotels

1825. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) hotels went on a day's strike on July 23, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are their demands and what measures are being taken by Government to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The employees of ITDC's Delhi based hotels went on one day's strike on 23rd July, 1987.

(b) The main demands were:

(i) to start wage negotiations for the employees of hotel and catering establishments of ITDC;

(ii) release of interim relief to such employees;

(iii) withdrawal of the Employees State Insurance Scheme etc.

The ITDC management had discussed with the unions their demands on 21 July 87. The Unions were informed that the wage negotiations are dependent upon the grant of interim relief presently under the consideration of the Committee appointed by the Govt. and that withdrawal of Employees State Insurance Scheme is not possible being a statutory obligation.

Cleaning of river Ganga

1826. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Attempts to clean Ganga lackadaisical" and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government does not agree with the view that attempts to clean Ganga have been lackadaisical. Till 31st July, 1987 a total of 259 schemes to be taken up in the three states of UP, Bihar and West Bengal under the Ganga Action Plan have been identified in consultation with the state governments.

Out of these 177 number of schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores have been sanctioned till 31-7-87 and work has started on the execution of most of them.

7 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.23 crores have already been completed in Hardwar-Rishikesh, Ramnagar near Varanasi and Patna. Till the end of 1987-88, 42 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.38 crores are expected to be completed. The progress of execution is being monitored.

Extensive arrangement have been made for monitoring water quality according to specific parameters in 27 locations.

To secure public involvement in the Ganga Action Plan programme of public awareness about the problems of pollution and ways to prevent these as well as programme of direct public participation have been taken up.

Till 30th June, 1987 an amount of Rs. 36.98 crores have been released to the executing agencies in states for execution of schemes out of which the agencies have reported utilisation of an amount of Rs. 34.96 crores.

News-item Captioned "Officials Rob Bonded Labourers"

1827. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item caption "Officials rob bonded labourers" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 24th July, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the charges of corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 the responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers lies with the concerned State Governments. Framing of suitable rehabilitation schemes as well as their proper implementation are also the responsibilities of the concerned State Governments. The news item has been brought to the notice of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for appropriate action.

Construction of a low budget Janata Hotel at Chandigarh

1828. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the matter of constructing a low-budget Janata Hotel at Chandigarh;

(b) what is the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on this project and what would be its capacity; and

(c) whether the construction is being undertaken departmentally or through a private contractor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) ITDC's Seventh Five Year Plan does not include any provision for setting up any new hotel project at Chandigrah.

(c) Question does not arise.

Sri Lankan Tamils in India

1829. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of Tamil from Sri Lanka's war-ravaged nor-